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ADVERTISER/NEWS

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Agawam's Hometown Newspaper

December 6, 1979

*Nantucket Recinds Appointment.*

### Caputo Resigns

by Ric Sardella

The resignation of Town Manager Peter Caputo took a bizarre twist Wednesday...the Nantucket Board of Selectmen, the same body that had appointed Caputo to the island's chief of police spot at a press conference Tuesday morning, recinded their action at a special meeting early Wednesday morning.

A spokesman for the selectman's office in Nantucket declined to comment on the reasons for the sudden turn of events. According to several sources at town hall, the selectmen were alerted to the controversy surrounding the resume of Caputo from several political enemies of the manager within Agawam.

Caputo's resume has been the subject of bitter debate since late last July when former councilor Valentine R. Moreno and citizen Dermott Desmond accused the manager of buying a bachelor's degree from Rochdale College in Canada for \$25.

The flap led to a unanimous vote of confidence from 12 councilors present at an August 23rd executive session.

Caputo would not comment on the selectmen's action. He did say that it was evident that personages in Agawam "are continuing to badger me and the selectmen's action was a result of my detractors filling Nantucket's ears with falsehoods and innuendos."

The manager said that George Buckingham, Nantucket board chairman, informed him of the decision immediately after the Wednesday morning vote. Caputo would not comment on the conversation.

Town Council President Richard Theroux told the Advertiser/News that he will call a special session of the council December 10th. Theroux said the agenda will consist of acting upon Caputo's request for resignation; the formation of a search committee for a new town manager; and the discussion of an interim manager.

When asked if the council may refuse to accept Caputo's resignation in the wake of the Nantucket circumstances, Theroux responded: "I can't speak for the council but as a councilor, I find it difficult not to accept it, despite my personal feelings for the man."

Theroux said that the manager made it clear in the letter of resignation that his reason for leaving his \$27,500 job at town hall was because, "it was time to move on."

"The future employment of the manager plays no part in the matter. I feel very badly about what happened in Nantucket, but I don't feel that the resignation hinged upon him getting another position."

Theroux refused to speculate who the council would appoint as the interim manager if the council accepts Caputo's resignation.

According to officials at town hall, Town Clerk Edward Caba and town treasurer David Gallano have been mentioned as the most prominent candidates to serve during an interim period. Caba served as acting town manager after the resignation of James D. Westman and prior to the February, 1978 appointment of Caputo.

When asked for comment on the possibility of serving as acting town manager, Gallano said: "I have no designs on the job. I think Mr. Caba is the first choice."

Gallano did say that if he were offered the position for the interim, and if the circumstances of the appointment were to his liking, he would accept the position.

Caba said he would be available to fill the manager's slot on an interim basis if the council appointed him. Caba was a candidate for the position on a full time basis during his interim period two years ago. He would not comment if he would submit a resume to the council's five member search committee.

In an interview with the Advertiser/News prior to the Nantucket decision not to hire him as police chief, Caputo said he was leaving Agawam with regret and that he never seriously considered resigning his post

"until the malcontents began to seriously attack my family."

He further stated that several councilors who have supported him in the past were upset over his resignation.

When asked if he felt that his job was in jeopardy once the new council convened January 2, 1980, Caputo observed: "I think that after the first of the year the council would have been influenced by a minority of malcontents on it. They would have launched a series of attacks to weaken the administration."

He claims that at the current pace of attack on his office, "something would have gone haywire by February. I've found that anyone seated in the office will be subjected to attack. The evil ones are constantly at work."

### Connelly Says Repeal Petitions Available

State Representative Edward Connelly announced today that petitions for the repeal of legislative pay raises are now available.

"There has been a great public outcry since the legislature saw fit to give itself and the governor pay raises," stated Connelly. He added: "I hope those who are interested will participate in this petition drive. This will display to the legislature and administration that the taxpayers will not tolerate this action."

The bill was passed at 4 a.m. on October 31, and was subsequently signed by Governor Edward King.

Petitions are available through Connelly's aide, Michael Walsh at 789-0128.

### Connelly, Caputo Blast Commission

The Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission has again raised the ire of local officials. Town Manager Peter Caputo said today that the town will take legal action if the regional planning commissioner joins a Springfield neighborhood group in a suit against the \$20 million Route 57 extension project.

Agawam State Representative Edward Connelly, expressing outrage over statements issued by LPVRPC officials concerning the possibility of the planning commission joining the East Forest Park Civic Association, told the Advertiser/News he will urge the town to join the Commonwealth as a party to the suit.

Caputo said he will ask the Town Council next week to set up a special fund for the law department. The fund will be earmarked to fight any legal action that LPVRPC may initiate against the controversial extension project.

The LPVRPC is expected to vote on the matter at their December 10th meeting. Agawam retains one vote on the commission.

At this time, the project is being funded by the State Department of Public Works. The Federal Highway Administration decided not to fund the project after a series of controversies occurred between the LPVRPC and state officials.

LPVRPC and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) have vehemently opposed the extension project while the DPW said that the project is badly needed for the residents of Agawam.

Connelly has stressed over the past five years that the present road is a public safety hazard since it dumps into a residential section of Agawam without any relief from other existing roads. The DPW agreed with Connelly and town officials and said the Commonwealth will fund the entire project. Currently the project is in the preliminary engineering and design stages.

*continued on page 16*



Five year Jamie Rivers of 76 Horsham Place, who has always shown an interest in fire trucks, was recently surprised by his school bus driver Matthew Blackak with a visit to the fire station in Feeding Hills last week. Jamie sat in the fire truck and visited with the firemen - an afternoon he'll long remember. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## School Lunch Menus

### AGAWAM SCHOOL MENUS

**Monday, Dec. 10:** Vegetable soup, grilled cheese sandwich w/pickle chips, buttered green beans, chilled fruit cup, milk

**Tuesday, Dec. 11:** Orange juice, hamburger in roll, niblet corn, sweet potato cake w/peanut butter icing, milk

**Wednesday, Dec. 12:** Creamed turkey on whipped potatoes, buttered mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread & butter, dessert, milk

**Thursday, Dec. 13:** Sloppy Joe in roll, steamed buttered rice, broccoli cuts, petite banana, milk

**Friday, Dec. 14:** Apple juice, fish kabobs w/tartar sauce, baked beans, oven French fries, ice cream, milk

### SOUTHWICK SCHOOL MENUS

**Monday, Dec. 10:** Meatball grinder, French fries, buttered peas, chocolate or vanilla pudding, milk

**Tuesday, Dec. 11:** Beans & franks, garden salad w/dressing, toasted English muffin w/butter, chilled applesauce, milk

**Wednesday, Dec. 12:** Hearty beef stew, cheese cubes, saltines, bread & butter, chocolate cake w/white icing, milk

**Thursday, Dec. 13:** Fruit juice, baked meat loaf w/tomato sauce, buttered corn, Italian bread & butter, cookies, milk

**Friday, Dec. 14:** Cheese pizza, buttered green beans, tossed salad w/dressing, cherry jello w/fruit & topping

## Youth Center Plans Potluck Dinner

The Agawam Youth Center will hold a Potluck Dinner on Thursday, December 13, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church on Main Street.

All Youth Center members, their families, friends, and the entire Agawam community is welcome to come for delicious food and good company. There will also be some special surprise entertainment.

Call the center and let them know what type of dish you plan to bring and how many people will attend from a family or organization.

A donation of 50¢ for children and 75¢ for adults is asked. If you attend, but don't bring food, a charge of \$2.50 will be asked.

Other Youth Center activities scheduled for the coming weeks are as follows:

Dec. 6: 6-8 p.m. Photography Workshop at AYC  
Dec. 8: Devil's Cavern caving trip - come to prep for details

Dec. 9: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mountaintop Day Hike for jrs.

Dec. 11: 3-5 p.m. Guitar Workshop for srs. at AYC

Dec. 13: Potluck Dinner

Dec. 15: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Christmas shopping trip Sr/Jr

Dec. 16: Day Hike for srs. - call for more details

Dec. 18: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Sr. Activities Meeting

Dec. 19: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Jr. Activities Meeting

The Agawam Youth Center is located at 497 Springfield Street.

## Agawam School Music Dates

Saturday, Dec. 8 - Western District Festival auditions for senior high students 9:00 - 4:00

Wednesday, Dec. 12 - Clark School Music Program for parents 7:00 p.m. - Junior High School Winter Concert (Band and Chorus) 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 19 - Middle School Winter Concert 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 19 - Senior High District pre-rehearsal at U.Mass. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 29 - District Concert rehearsal and concert at U.Mass 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 23 - Senior High Band Award Supper - high school cafeteria

Thursday, February 7 - Senior High Jazz Band for Congregational Church dinner 1:00 p.m.

## Agawam Boy Chosen MDA Poster Child

The executive committee of the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association held its bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 27th.

This was the first meeting of the newly elected executive and advisory committee members.

Plans were discussed for the annual Christmas party which will be held for Western Mass. chapter members on December 16th at the Greek Cultural Center in Springfield. Children and adult patients and their families are invited to attend the event free of charge.

Poster child applicants for 1980 were reviewed, and Christopher DeSpir of Agawam was chosen to serve as the 1980 poster child of the Western Mass. chapter.

Also discussed were plans for recreational programs for the coming year including New England field trips and athletic events for the handicapped.

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# Guidance Bulletin Board

[This column which will appear on a regular basis is being coordinated by and submitted to our newspaper by Paul Cavallo, chairman of the Guidance Departments for schools in Agawam.]

A very informative discussion concerning financial aid will be held on Tuesday, December 11th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library on Cooper Street.

Mr. Lee Sirois, director of financial aid at A.I.C., will explain the F.A.F. and other important items regarding financial aid.

The Guidance Department welcomes any interested parent or citizen of Agawam to attend this forum which is not just restricted to parents of high school seniors.

The department wishes to remind these parents who will be filing an F.A.F. that it may be mailed any time after January 1, 1980. The sooner one files, the faster the application will be processed and sent to the designated institutions.

A reminder to F.A.F. applicants: the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education scholarship program is explained in the F.A.F. packet. You *do not* have to file a separate application for this state grant program. A copy of your processed application will be sent to Boston if you list the scholarship program as a recipient of your processed application.

The same procedure applies to the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant program (BEOG). There is a check off for this program on the F.A.F. application. No extra charge is involved.

### RECENT SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

A) James Z. Naurisen Scholarship eligibility requirements include the following: 1. Resident of Hampden County; 2. Financial need of family be such that applicant could not obtain desired education except through assistance; 3. F.A.F. must be submitted; 4. Applications must be submitted no later than May 1, 1980.

B) AIC Freshman Academic Scholarship - a competitive exam will be administered to prospective AIC freshmen on the following dates: Dec. 8, 1979; Jan. 19, 1980; Feb. 9, 1980.

### COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 7, 1979 - Endicott College; St. Joseph's; Wheaton  
Dec. 10, 1979 - Caldwell; Emmanuel  
Dec. 11, 1979 - Centenary  
Dec. 17, 1979 - Lasell Jr. College

## Cub Scout Pack 75 Schedules Paper Drive

The Cub Scouts of Pack 75 will hold a paper drive on Saturday and Sunday, December 8th and 9th, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the parking lot of Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills.

The scouts will be going house to house to collect papers. The drop-off point will be the church parking lot.

If you have a lot of papers and are not able to drop them off, please call 786-5536 and arrangements will be made to pick them up.

The drive will benefit Pack 75 in their activities for the coming year.

## Navy Offers Medical Scholarships

The Department of the Navy is now accepting applications for medical or osteopathic school scholarships which will begin July 1, 1980.

According to Captain A.C. Eastman, commanding officer of Navy Recruiting District Boston, these scholarships are available to students who have been accepted to an American Medical Association or American Osteopathic Association-accredited school or to students already enrolled in such a school.

"Because only a limited number of scholarships exist in 1980," said Capt. Eastman, "this program is highly competitive."

The Navy scholarship includes four full years of tuition, reimbursement of required books and supplies, a monthly stipend for 10½ months and a commission as a Naval Reserve officer.

Students interested in this scholarship should contact NRD Boston's Medical Programs Department, 470 Atlantic Ave., Boston, or call 222-6216.

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## Powder Mill School Releases Honor Roll

The following is a list of those students who have been named to the Powder Mill School merit roll for the first quarter of the school year.

### GRADE 5

Room 202: Cheryl Bodak, Joseph Langlois, Karen Lever, Kimberly Schoolcraft, Kimberly Zenisky  
Room 203: Brian Bregoli, Robert Haramut, Brenda Heffernan, Shelby Lemire  
Room 205: Carmela Alberti, Charles Wilson, Kristen Yarzab  
Room 206: Pamela Crick, Robert Laughlin, Suzanne Sena  
Room 207: Susan Colina, Elizabeth Cooper, Heather Grady, Timothy Hardick, Stacy Neill, Jennifer Voudren  
Room 208: Sharon Sanborn and Nancy Seymour

### GRADE 6

Room 3: Lisa Bruno, Renee Charbonneau, Karen Hosmer, Jay Pinney, Tami Root  
Room 4: Karen Carmody, Lisa Christopher, Deborah Dunlap, Sheila Fountain, Lisa Lawson, Robert Tenerowicz  
Room 5: Paula Alekson, Linnea Erhart, Wendy Farina, Theresa Jasmin, Darlene Moccio, D. Mark Herbele, Michell Phelps  
Room 9: Janina Buldrini, Ronald Cote, Elizabeth Deedy, Tamara DeGray, Tavis Grady, Luann Hepburn, Rebecca Mihlek, William Richards, Rachael Rodriguez, Brian Soper, Patricia Stratton, Mark Typroicz, Yvonne DeVerry  
Room 10: Kara Antonucci, Tanya Braxton, Lisa Ehrhardt, Nicole Korte, Michele Pepper, Kerri Radwiliwicz

### GRADE 7

Room 6: Carolyn Bardwell, Cheryl Dubreuil, Danelle Fiorentino  
Room 12: Karen Girard, Todd Lever, Karen Sulewski  
Room 101: Denise Alekson, Sharon Cohoon, Lisa Darlington, Renee Duval, Marianne Ide, Monique Laquerre  
Room 109: Linda Brooks, Michelle Cook, Jason Lobo, Lisa Pepper, Sharon Platanitis, Melinda Pustinger  
Room 210: Dina Campagnari, Suzanne Dunlap, Steven Desroches, Darlene Pizzi, Maryann Marceno  
Room 211: Michelle Drummond, Carey Girard, Tanya K'llogg, Thomas Odell, Melanie Thompson

### GRADE 8

Room 102: Michael Bartley, Lorraine Gagnon, Michael St. Pierre, Vicki Tether, Robin Wichrowski  
Room 103: Loretta Bishop, Marita Cecchini, Darlene Coolidge, Carol Dunlap, Justine Hansen, Joanne Sligar, Cheryl Thompson, Sean Plankey, Douglas Pepe, Kurt Mailman, Todd Lemieux  
Room 104: Debra DeRay, Rose Granaudo, Peter Hinish, Haneen Marsh  
Room 105: Paul DellaGiustina, Cheryl Colina, Joanne Munson, Todd Typroicz  
Room 106: Alena Antonucci, Alisa Hooker, Leah Humphrey, Linda Keene, and Michael Pinney

## SRA Results Available At Powder Mill School

A short while ago, students at Powder Mill School, Southwick, spent a few days taking the Science Research Associates' achievement test battery. The answer sheets have now been scored and the results are being returned to each participant.

The S.R.A. test survey was given to help measure each child's educational strengths and weaknesses.

The guidance office at Powder Mill School, according to George LeBlanc, guidance counselor, is normally open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. daily. In addition, during the week of December 10-14, the office will also be open Monday and Wednesday evenings for parent conferences by appointment only.

Parents are encouraged to call Mr. LeBlanc at 569-5951 for an appointment regarding these matters or other educational concerns.



Robin Smith and Steven Bissell, an admissions counselor at Northeastern.

## Miss Smith Attends Northeastern

Robin Smith, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Smith of Vassar Drive, Feeding Hills, has enrolled in the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions at Northeastern University.

Northeastern University is a five-year cooperative education institution which enables students to alternate their four upperclass years between the classroom and paid employment in jobs related to their major field of study.

A 1979 graduate of Cathedral High School, Miss Smith was a member of the gymnastics team and received the Polish American Club scholarship.

## Christmas Seals fight lung disease



## CERTIFIED ACUPUNCTURIST Dr. Yu-Man Suen announces the opening of ACUPUNCTURE CENTER OF NEW ENGLAND

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## 911 Number Now Available In Agawam

The 911 telephone emergency reporting system has been available to telephone subscribers in the Agawam (786 and 789) exchange since December 1st.

The 911 system enables the caller - just by dialing the three-digit number - to reach quickly a centralized emergency location, which will then alert the appropriate agency, either police, fire or ambulance.

These lines are for emergency use only, and residents should continue to dial the individual police (786-4767), fire (786-2662), or detective bureau (786-1717) numbers for all other calls, leaving the 911 lines open to handle emergencies faster.

There is no charge for a 911 call. Agawam is the 68th community to introduce 911 in New England Telephone's five-state area.

## AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER

### AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER MENU

12/10: Shepherd's pie, 3-bean salad, pears

12/11: Chicken breast, scalloped potatoes, green beans, applesauce

12/12: Bratwurst, cheese macaroni, stewed tomatoes, cake

12/13: Spinach pie, mixed lettuce, fruit

12/14: Clam chowder, grilled cheese sandwich, apple crisp

## Laughing Brook Sponsors 'Hints For Holidays'

Massachusetts Audubon Society's Laughing Brook Education Center in Hampden is offering a morning workshop for children and their parents on Saturday, December 8th at 10 a.m.

Hints for the Holidays is a craft-making activity that allows children ages 3-5 to make beautiful natural crafts with the help of their parents.

The instructor will be Anna Woloschuck, a local craftsman with an interest in using natural materials for her works. She has taught many children the joys of making such creations as pine cone penguins, candlestick holders and centerpieces. Some of these are part of this program.

The Hints for the Holidays craft program is open to all 3 to 5 year olds with their parents. There is a fee and pre-registration is required. For more information, call Laughing Brook any day at 566-3571.

## Connelly Concludes Meetings With Local Board, Residents

In an effort to initiate legislation and to maintain communication with his constituents, State Representative Edward Connelly has completed a two week series of meetings with community leaders and citizens in the eight communities comprising the Third Hampden District.

Representing Agawam, Southwick, Granville, Chester, Montgomery, Russell, Blandford and Tolland, Connelly told the *Advertiser/News* today that the sessions were informative and productive.

He said Boards of Selectmen in the rural communities were interested in the recently completed legislative year and in the many actions taken by the state legislature.

Connelly said that he had been asked to follow through with several bills on behalf of residents in the rural towns.

"I've been establishing a base of communication with the selectmen in the rural communities, and I have also

tried to keep them informed on what is happening in Boston."

According to Connelly, his aide Michael Walsh has regularly attended town meetings in the rural communities. He said Walsh has acted as a liaison between his office and residents while the legislature was in session.

"In the last few months, we've tried to make residents feel that they are a part of what is happening in Boston. From the response we received during our meetings, I would say it's working," he said.

Connelly added that selectmen in Chester have invited him back to discuss issues with town department heads and interested residents.

The state legislator held hours at the Agawam Town Hall last Friday, November 30.



Michael Walsh, right, and Representative Connelly. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine

## Valley Grange News Report

Pioneer Valley Pomona Grange will meet at West Springfield Grange Hall for its Christmas program on December 8th at 8 o'clock. All of the granges in the pomona organization will participate in "Symbols of Christmas" with songs and stories.

In place of an exchange of gifts among the members this year, unwrapped gifts appropriate for nursing homes will be received by the Community Service Chairman Sarah Fillion to be distributed where needed.

Twenty-two members of this pomona grange with 23 others from nearby granges recently returned from a four day bus trip to the National Grange session in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Some of these joined about 4,000 others from across the country to receive the seventh degree as conferred by the Assembly of Demeter for the national grange.

On one of the days, a tour of the beautiful Amish country with a bountiful dinner was enjoyed. On another day, a farmers' market was visited with choice local products attractively displayed and impossible to resist. The bus bulged on its return trip home.

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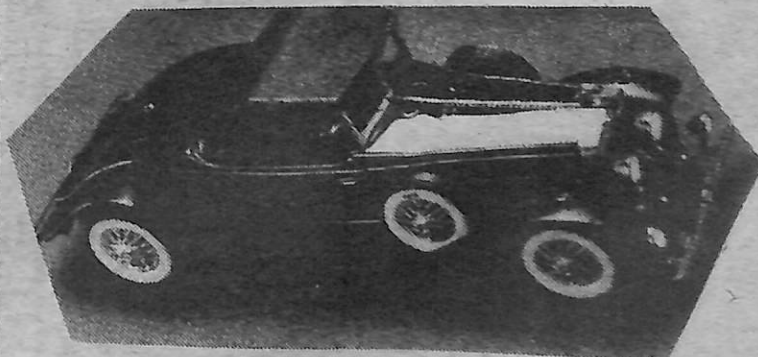
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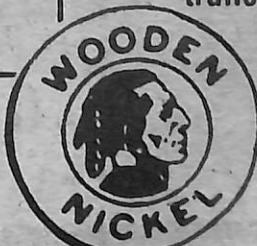
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## "Caring & Sharing" Week Proclaimed

Agawam Town Manager Peter Caputo has proclaimed the week of December 10th as "Caring and Sharing" Week to acknowledge volunteerism by various church groups and civic organizations in Agawam and Feeding Hills. These individuals donate their time and energy unselfishly in many aspects of our community throughout the year.

A most outstanding example to volunteerism is the Clearing House project directed by the Agawam Junior Women's Club now for the sixth consecutive year. Hundreds of hours are donated by members to compile a list of needy families, obtain donations, bake breads and cookies, and then fill and deliver baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Through their efforts, the holiday season becomes a more joyous time for less fortunate families.

In conjunction with this project, Mr. Arthur Leary, owner of the Country Squire Furniture Shop on Main Street, has donated and set up in his store a Caring and

Sharing Christmas tree. This tree will serve as a central drop-off point for donations to Clearing House. Toys and warm children's clothing, tagged with the size, sex, and age of a child to receive the gift, can be brought to the Country Squire Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 to 5.

Individuals can contribute to Clearing House in various ways. One Agawam woman asks Clearing House to select a family with a particularly urgent need, and then she purchases clothing, boots, and other necessities for the children.

Last year, students from one elementary school brought in new or used toys that were in good condition; another school collected canned goods; another contributed boxed foods.

This year the Clearing House has once again requested the various elementary schools in town to contribute canned and boxed goods to the baskets for the needy.



Left to right: Barbara Connery, Chairperson of the Clearing House project; Barbara O'Connor, President of the Agawam Junior Women's Club, and Peter Caputo, with the proclamation dedicating the week of December 10th as "Caring & Sharing Week" in Agawam.



Snowman created by an 8-year-old for the 1979 Christmas Seals bears resemblance to cartooning style of Charles Schulz, national chairman of the American Lung Association's campaign against lung disease, smoking and air pollution. Christmas Seal contributions help protect America's health, says the creator of "Peanuts." Give generously.

Christmas Seals have been fighting lung disease since early in this century, he says. Our family always has supported the annual campaign, and we hope yours will, too.

Some organizations donate to Clearing House as a part of their annual budget. Some may wish to make up their own holiday baskets as a group project and simply have the Juniors handle the delivery. Groups may also deliver their own baskets.

The exact number of baskets given out can be determined only after all the contributions are in. Donations may be made in the form of turkeys, fresh fruit and vegetables, canned or frozen foods, personal checks, or cash. Donations are tax deductible.

Anyone wishing to help should contact Mrs. Barbara Connery, chairperson, at 786-2671.

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# SOCIAL

## Norman Steadman To Be Ordained

Norman Lee Steadman of Hendom Place, Feeding Hills, has been nominated by the authorities of the Valley Community Church to be ordained as lay minister and preacher. The ordination ceremonies will take place at the morning services, 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 9th.

Rev. Peter Caputo, town manager, will preach the sermon and will give the ordination prayer. Rev. Frank E. Dunn, minister of the church, will preside.

Mr. Steadman is an active member of the church having been the chairman of its Administrative Committee for two years. He was instrumental along with several others in erecting the new community building, one of the largest in this area. He occupies the pulpit when the minister is away.

A reception in honor of Mr. Steadman will be given immediately following the morning service. The public is cordially invited to this service.

## Mt. Carmel Choir Will Present Cantata

The Mt. Carmel Choir of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Springfield, with the school Glee Club will present their 18th annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 9th at 4 p.m. in the church. The group will perform under the direction of Albert J. Mastroianni.

This has been a popular event, a prelude to the Christmas season for young and old. The *Song of the Angels* by Thompson will be the major work of the program along with old and familiar carols for choir and congregation.

Come as a family for an enjoyable afternoon of listening and singing. Go home with the Christmas spirit.

## Catholic Women's Club Christmas Party

The monthly meeting of the Agawam Catholic Women's Club will be held on Monday, December 17th, at St. John's Parish Center on Main Street.

Entertainment provided by the Agawam High School Chorale under the direction of Mr. Files will begin at 8:00 followed by the business meeting.

This will be a fun-filled Christmas party, and those who wish may bring a \$2 gift to exchange. Also plan to bring a gift for a patient at the Municipal Hospital, and please mark it whether for male or female.

If a member plans to bring a guest, notify Mrs. Richard Conway, program chairperson, at 786-5909. Mrs. Robert Shoemaker and her committee are in charge of hospitality.

Christmas Bazaar chairpersons Mrs. James Davis and Mrs. Robert Carney wish to thank all those who worked on the bazaar as well as those who attended and helped to make it a success.

## P.W.P. Holds Orientation Meeting

The monthly orientation of Lakeside Chapter 990 Parents Without Partners will be held on Monday, December 17 at 8 p.m. at the Brass Rail on Point Grove Road, Southwick.

All interested people are required to attend an orientation or general meeting to join the organization.

Anyone interested in obtaining further information about this new and becoming-very-active chapter may do so by attending the above meeting or by writing to Parents Without Partners, Inc., P.O. Box 519, Southwick, MA 01077.



Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. DeMatos and Rev. Frank Dunn

## Paula Fimognari Weds Agawam Man

On Sunday, December 2, 1979, the marriage of Paula J. Fimognari, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fimognari of Cote Road, Monson, to Daniel A. DeMatos of Royal Street, Agawam, took place in the Valley Community Church, Feeding Hills.

Serving her sister as maid of honor was Pamela Fimognari, and acting as best man was Richard Carabello.

The bride is a graduate of Monson High School and is employed as a management secretary.

The groom is the owner of D. A. DeMatos Realty Company, Inc. and Top Job Car Wash and Car Sales in Agawam.

After a brief honeymoon, the couple plans to reside in Agawam.

## Christmas Seals Fight Lung Disease



## Cindy Singers Schedule December Concerts

The Cindy Singers have scheduled several concerts during the month of December, beginning with a performance held on December 2nd at Heritage Hall in Agawam. They also performed on December 3rd at Mt. Carmel Church in Springfield and on December 4th at the Riverdale Convalescent Home.

On December 18th, they will participate in a Christmas program for the Catholic Daughters in Somers, Connecticut. Their Christmas program consists of several traditional carols, as well as such modern numbers as *Do You Hear What I Hear?* and *Little Drummer Boy*.

In January, the Cindy Singers will be busy rehearsing their spring program. Individuals who read music and enjoy light music are welcome to join. Those interested may contact Cindy Meyer at 668-2471.

## Merry



## Christmas

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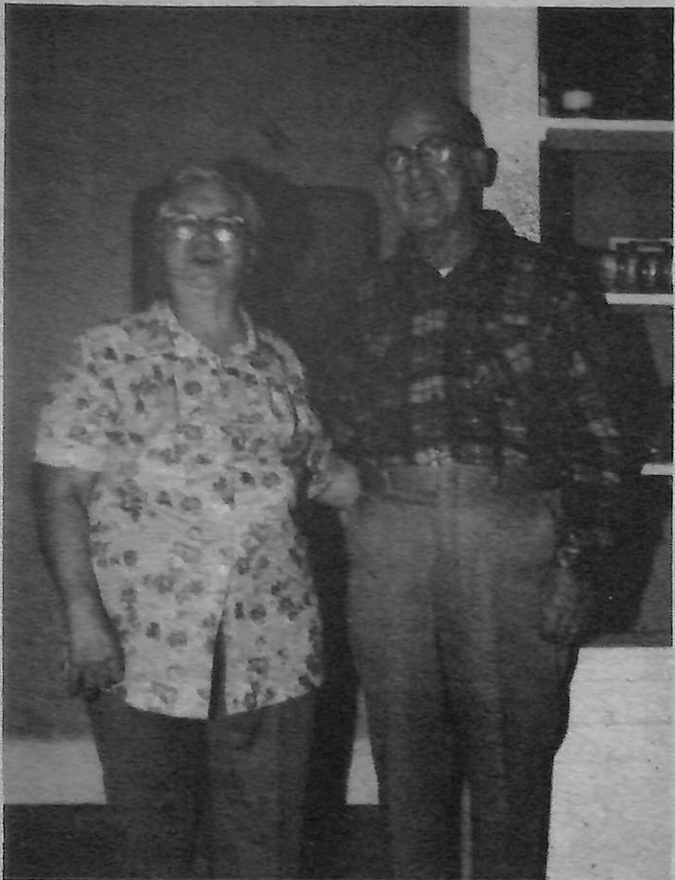


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Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin McCullough Sr.

## McCulloughs Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin McCullough Sr. were hosted by their children at a luncheon at Storowton Tavern in West Springfield on November 17th as a celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. A surprise party was held later at 113 Cooley Street, where the couple resides. Relatives and friends were invited.

Mr. and Mrs. McCullough were married in Amsterdam, New York, on November 16, 1929, and have lived in Agawam for over 40 years. Mr. McCullough is a retired custodian of Peirce Elementary School.

The couple has three children, all living in Agawam: Ben, Jr., Brenda Trombley, and Debbie Mucchi. They have 8 grandchildren.

## Sacred Heart Rosary Society Plans Christmas Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Rosary Altar Society of Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills, will be held on Tuesday, December 11, in the Parish Center.

The meeting will feature the organization's Christmas party with \$2 gifts to be exchanged, refreshments served, and a raffle and sing-a-long scheduled.

The festivities will begin at 7:30 p.m.

## Friends Of Clearing House Listed

Mrs. Barbara Connery, this year's chairperson of the Agawam Junior Women's Club's Clearing House project, wishes to extend a sincere "thank you" to the following contributors. Through their donations and those of others who prefer to remain anonymous, 38 baskets (including 7 for elderly people) were delivered to needy Agawam families in time for Thanksgiving.

St. Anthony's Church - financial donation  
Dr. Homer Curtis - 6 dozen tubes of toothpaste  
Chriscola's Farm Equipment - financial donation  
Agawam Congregational Church - baskets for 5 families  
Agawam Garden Club - financial donation  
Agawam Burring & Refinishing - financial donation  
Valley Community Day Care Center - 2 bags of groceries  
Small World Nursery School - 2 bushel baskets of canned goods

Building Block Nursery School - 4 bushels of groceries and two turkeys. A special thanks to each of the students for earning money doing helpful chores around the house, donating the money, doing the actual shopping

Nissen's Thrift Store 25 dozen dinner rolls

Charlie Cavanaugh - 200 pounds of potatoes

St. David's Church - 4 bags of groceries and a large box of homemade cookies

St. Anthony's CCD classes - 1 large box canned goods

Agawam Methodist Church - large bags of groceries

Agawam Baptist Church - financial donation & 4 bags of groceries

Dr. Thomas Morrier - 2 children's toothpaste kits

Milton Bradley - 60 games

Agawam Food Mart - gift certificates towards purchases for baskets. The staff deserves our heartfelt appreciation for personally escorting the school students through the store on their shopping trip, opening a special cash register for them on a busy weekly shopping day, and treating them all to candy. They truly exemplified the spirit of "Caring & Sharing."

## Mothers Of Twins Plan Christmas Party

Santa Claus will need both knees at the annual Children's Christmas Party sponsored by the Hampden County Mothers of Twins Club to be held Sunday, December 9th, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Greater Springfield Association of the Blind, 910 Liberty Street, Springfield.

Members are asked to bring homemade cookies to be served with other refreshments. The children will make decorations for the Christmas tree and will provide the entertainment. Guests will be Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and several clowns who will lead the caroling. The guest of honor is, of course, Santa Claus, who will distribute gifts to the twins and their siblings.

All inquiries should be addressed to Kathy Mouchantat, Membership Chairperson, 159 Green Hill Road, Longmeadow.

## Temple Beth El Slates Chanukah Party

Temple Beth El Brotherhood will hold its annual Chanukah Party at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 16th, at the temple.

The program will include a traditional potato latke meal, disco dancing and a magic show by Dominique, entertainment by the Beth El religious school children, and a surprise for every child.

The Chanukah Party committee consists of Allan Goldsmith, Robert Green, Larry Kublin, Ira Mayer, and Steve Silpe.

Reservations at \$2 for each adult and \$1 for each child 12 or under must be made by December 12th. Checks payable to Beth El Brotherhood should be sent to Chanukah Party, 62 Dunsany Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106.

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# Masons Hold Christmas Ceremony

On Saturday, December 1st, the Elm Lodge of Masons, assisted by members of the Agawam Women's Club, held a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

The 50 foot blue spruce tree, beautifully decorated with lights, was lit while the Melha Shriners band played Christmas carols. Past Master of Elm Lodge, Ralph L. Cheeseman, pushed the switch which turned the tree into a most appropriate symbol of Christmas.

The Masonic Temple in Agawam, now the new home for the Elm Lodge, is managed by the Ralph L. Cheeseman Masonic Building Association and is undergoing a pleasant influx of new members.

## December Events For Elm Lodge Of Masons

**Monday, Dec. 10:** Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in West Springfield, 732 Elm Street. The ecumenical degree team from the Greater Boston area will confer the third or master mason degree on one of Elm Lodge's Fellow Craft brothers. This is a greatly admired degree team which confers degrees only on ordained ministers. A Steak Cassarole Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. prior to the meeting. Reservations are required by December 7th. All Elm Lodge officers have tickets priced at \$3.50.

**Wednesday, Dec. 12:** Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Masonic Temple in Agawam, 733 Main Street. The master mason degree will be conferred on two Fellow Craft brothers.

**Saturday, Dec. 15:** Children's Christmas party at 1 p.m. at Masonic Temple in Agawam; for members children and grandchildren up to 12 years of age.

Annual Christmas Party for members, wives, and friends at 8 p.m. \$2 gifts will be exchanged.

**Monday, Dec. 17th:** Meeting at 8 p.m. at Masonic Temple, State Street, Springfield. Fifth Lodge of Instruction. All officers and candidates must attend this meeting. Members are also encouraged to attend.

**Tuesday, Dec. 18:** Special meeting at Masonic Temple, Agawam to confer the entered apprentice degree on three new candidates.

All of these meetings are to be followed by the usual colation, and all Masons are welcome.



Present at the Masons' Christmas Ceremony were, left to right: Joe Buchholz, president; Henry Dautrich, Herb Robbins, Dick Hather. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine.



The Melha Shriners band played Christmas carols at tree lighting ceremony. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine

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## Agawam Man Becomes Weight Watcher Aide

As Phil Shuman, now a Weight Watchers lecturer, stepped before his class at St. Rocco's Club in Westfield last Tuesday night, he was understandably nervous. The Certified Public Accountant who lives at 26 Arbor Lane, Agawam, was anxious to do a good job and help others as he had been helped.

Phil, who now weighs 183 pounds after a weight loss of 68½ pounds, finds that his blood pressure has gone down and potential heart problems have disappeared.

"But the cosmetic side of it was just as important. When you really know who you are, you treat others better. Learning how to control my weight taught me how to control my life. Now I am more efficient at work, with my family and in my love life."

Shuman's problem went all the way back to school days. His mother was a good Italian cook. His father made 500 gallons of Chianti every year.

"We had a lot of pasta and a lot of wine," he remembers. Despite his weight, he became a top athlete finding a berth on the All Springfield football team as tackle. He was also a good shot putter and discus thrower.

But when his education was finished, he continued to add weight and this caused personal problems.

"It made me feel that I was out of control of my life." His brother and sister, who were Weight Watchers, influenced him to join. He felt the least he could do was control his own weight.

The majority of Weight Watchers members are women, but Phil went to a class in West Springfield that had a male lecturer, Arthur Zalkan, who had also lost weight under the program.

"I found genuine concern from Zalkan and members of the class. There was a feeling of family. This support was important to me. I felt I was just where I belonged," said Shuman.

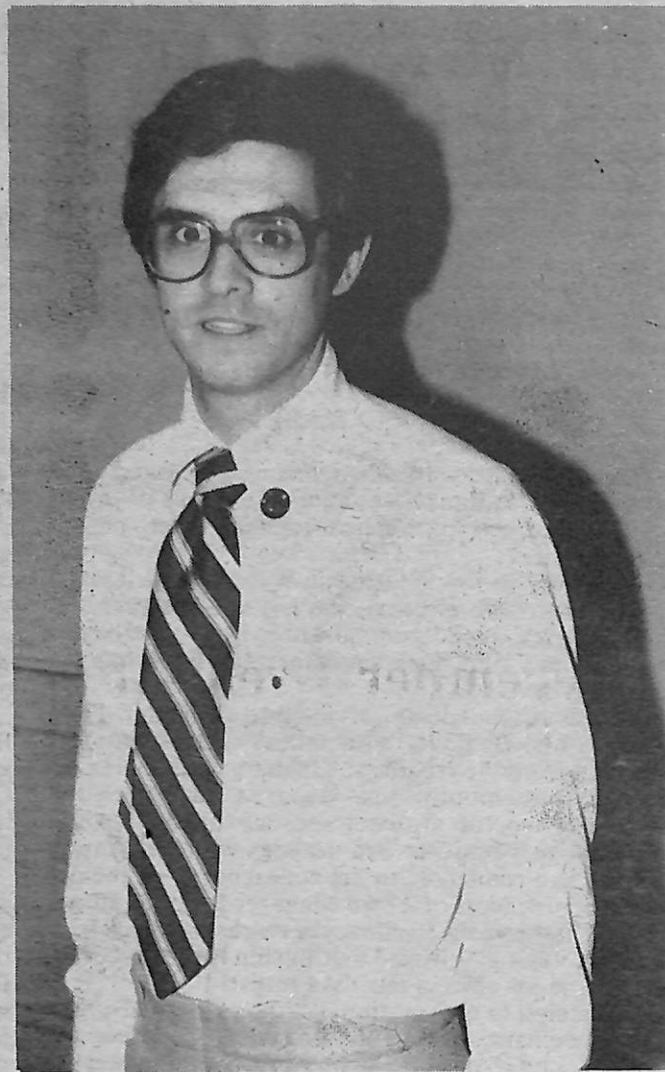
He had plenty to eat and there were no foods he really missed on the program. He even had pasta in moderation.

And with it all he lost an average of 4.2 pounds a week enabling him to reach his goal in 13 weeks. He had made up his mind not to buy clothes until he received his 16-week pin, and this resulted in some slight embarrassment. He used twine and two pairs of suspenders to hold up his trousers and he punched holes in his belt.

Then after 16 weeks, he replaced his wardrobe entirely. He found that his pants size went from 44 to 36 in-



Phil Shuman before....



....and after weight loss.

ches. His shoe size diminished. He had to buy pajamas because the old ones would not stay on. His wife Joan had helped him, and his family and friends rooted for him.

He urges other men with his problems to follow in his footsteps. For the past five years, Phil had been a

hockey player, but now he has replaced hockey with lecturing.

"I am indebted to the Weight Watchers program and want to give back not only what I learned, but what I am continuing to learn."

## Laughing Brook Presents Herbal Workshop

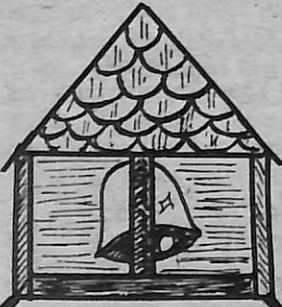
Laughing Brook Education Center in Hampden is sponsoring a workshop in making herbal potpourris on Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. The program is titled A Gift of Herbs and is designed for people interested in learning more about scent jars and herbs in general.

Nancy Bennett, a local herbalist, will be the instructor. She will give a brief history of scent jars in the home and explain how to identify different types of herbs. Participants then use the large selection of herbs provided by Laughing Brook to produce a blend of aromas called a potpourri.

Potpourris must be cured for a minimum of six weeks. Those made in this workshop should be ready for Valentine's Day, but can be given as a holiday gift.

The Gift of Herbs workshop is open to the public and a fee will be charged. Pre-registration is necessary and reservations may be made by calling Laughing Brook any day at 566-3571

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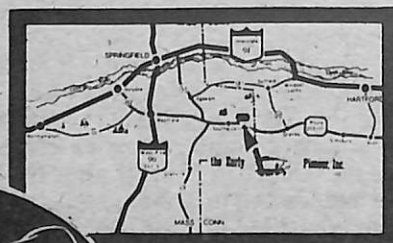
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# EDITORIAL

## Councilor Bonavita Needs To Reassess Herself

By Ric Sardella

The recent controversy involving newly-elected councilwoman Elaine Bonavita is another example of the immaturity and unsophisticatedness that often plagues town politics.

Since successfully capturing an at-large council seat in the November 6th election, she has left observers, including myself, wondering how long it will take before she becomes a lame duck legislator, if it hasn't happened already.

Because of the death of at-large councilor Floyd Landers, Ms. Bonavita automatically was sworn into her seat before the traditional January ceremonies.

In the past month, Ms. Bonavita has refused to follow any type of protocol and has failed to exhibit good common sense in her dealings with her responsibilities as a councilor, to her colleagues or to the present administration of Town Manager Peter Caputo.

At the last council meeting, she reached a new level of absurdity when she claimed that Caputo had attempted to bribe her in his office a few days earlier.

The catalyst to her emotional outburst stemmed from a heated exchange among Ms. Bonavita, one of her constituents, and Caputo. Harsh words were spoken on both sides, and Ms. Bonavita walked out of the manager's office in a huff.

According to Caputo's version, he asked Ms. Bonavita if she would fire him. She said yes. In so many words, Caputo told her to take a hike.

Ms. Bonavita claims that Caputo attempted to bribe her into his corner by appointing her to a liaison position between the Town Council and the Industrial Development Commission. Caputo said he was attempting to provide an interested councilor with an opportunity to become better involved.

The result of this nonsense...more nonsense. Councilor Bonavita attempted to fire Caputo, but could not raise a second to her astounding revelation.

Councilor Bonavita's action was the climax of a month of zealotry that has insiders saying she is tuning out fellow councilors. And who could blame them?

First, she forwarded a motion to establish a recognized council advisory board comprised of precinct and at-large residents. It was defeated, but not because of the advisory board's purpose: to recommend policy to the council and to keep the townsfolk informed.

No, it was defeated on the basis of Councilor Bonavita's constant abrasiveness when she is barely out of the political cradle.

Secondly, she attempted to re-vamp the format of Citizens' Speak Time, a portion of the council meeting that allows residents to address the elected fifteen and the manager.

According to Ms. Bonavita's resolution, councilors and residents should be able to exchange dialogue, something that is not allowed under current Citizens' Speak time rules. Ms. Bonavita often utilized Speak Time to the maximum both before and during her candidacy.

Imagine the chaos and delay that would barrage already chaotic council meetings if councilors and residents could exchange dialogue. What happened to the good old days when constituents called their councilors or stopped them in a local supermarket to seek help or political action? Isn't that what precinct and at-large representation is all about?

Also, Councilor Bonavita has created controversy with members of the Industrial Commission after calling a meeting of the board recently. That sparked a verbal spanking from Town Treasurer David Gallano and board members who flatly told the councilor she was a liaison and not a board chairman.

Councilor Bonavita needs to get her equilibrium back. If she wishes to follow through with campaign promises, such as the advisory council, why not set one up on her own similar to the one of the Agawam Citizens Together organization (of which she is a member)? That group is effective and it needed no recognition from the council. And why not attempt to accomplish these promises gradually, instead of with lightning quickness?

As for her relationship with Caputo, it does merit further observation. She has been at odds with Caputo ever since he closed the North Agawam fire station and since he nixed her proposed youth recreation centers that appeared before the council in May. It gives the impression that someone had an axe to grind.

One veteran councilor offered this advice to the new councilor: "What she should be doing is keeping a low profile for the first six months to learn the ropes and gradually follow through with campaign promises and her own thoughts on town affairs. Instead, she has come on like a freight train and is losing effectiveness very quickly."

Solid advice. If it's not adhered to, the real losers are the people who elected Councilor Bonavita into office, the same folks she made many promises to.

## Lice Infestation Persists...

## We Call For A Closing Of Our Schools

by Pat Guevin

The lice infestation of Agawam's children continues in an ever widening area. New and repeat cases have been reported almost daily throughout town. It seems that not only the elementary schools are being affected - as previously reported by Agawam's Health Director, Ron Young.

Increasingly, parents are keeping their children out of school for fear of infestation or reinfestation. The principal of James Clark School - the school most troubled with the lice - admits that the educational process in his school has all but stopped. It seems only logical that the situation, if not corrected now, will only worsen, and all of our schools will become lice infested day care centers.

The lice problem is not new. In a report prepared by Ron Young to Town Manager Peter Caputo, Young stated that sporadic cases were reported in town prior to October 24, 1979. We have learned that there were cases reported in Agawam as early as June, 1979. One source told us that cases were found at a local summer camp.

What we now have is a pattern of sorts. No matter where the infestation began, it is here, and it is of epidemic proportions. To say that the lice are concentrated in one section of town is, on the surface, correct. But, in a town such as ours, there is so much intermingling of school children - CCD classes, sports, Scouts, baton, after school activities, etc. - it is foolhardy to think that the problem will remain in one location.

The steps taken to date - head inspection of the children (not all of the children by the way) by school nurses and volunteer personnel is fine, but what next? A child found to have lice or nits is sent home, and his family is asked to take precautions against the spread of the lice within the home. This has created much, much work for the family involved. Washing heads, bodies, clothing, ironing mattresses, spraying carpeting, upholstery and drapes is all done in an attempt to kill the lice. The people involved are exhausted by the work, and understandably distraught over the situation. The child is re-inspected by the nurse and allowed back into the school - only to be sent home in a week or two with a new case of the old stuff. By this time, the mother is probably ready for the funny farm and thoroughly frustrated.

Taking all of these precautions unfortunately does not always prevent reinfestation. Why? Because the lice eggs are still present in the schools. Ron Young claims that the lice cannot live without a human host. A conflicting report from school physician, Dr. Doering

stated that the lice eggs (nits) can survive off the human body for a period of up to thirty days. Why, we should ask, if the nits can't live off of the body (or head), are we instructed to clean our houses from floor to ceiling? Why does a pamphlet, inserted into an over-the-counter lice killer, tell you to carefully wash and disinfect toilet seats and sink counter tops?

If Mr. Young is right, why is all of this work necessary in the home? If it is necessary in the home, it stands to reason that the cleaning process must also be done to the schools! As a final insult to the good people of Agawam, Mr. Young stated in a recent report that it might become necessary to go into the homes of the children with the lice and "inspect" the family in the procedures they must follow to prevent reinfestation. Placing the burden on the family is not where it's at, Mr. Young. More parents should demand to inspect the schools and should also demand to know what *you* are doing to the buildings to insure that they are also lice-free. Your attempts at educating the public are a little late in coming to say the least.

The one course of action that remains viable, and would probably be successful, is, alas, also the most involved and would create the most work for the Board of Health and our Health Director - which I'm sure is why he doesn't think the idea worthy of too much consideration. **CLOSE OUR SCHOOLS NOW!** Send our children home with detailed instructions to all parents. Have our schools de-loused (if Agawam parents must do this to their homes, what makes the schools exempt from such action?) When our schools are considered "safe" for the children to return (as certified by the professionals we would hire to do the extermination), set up a number of "check points" throughout the town. Staff them with nurses and competent volunteers and insist that each child visit a checkpoint station and be certified free of lice before he or she is allowed to return to school.

As I said previously, this is a lot of work - but then so is cleaning your house from top to bottom two or three times as many mothers in town can attest. The town manager has said that there is state and possibly federal money available to defray the cost of such an operation, but even if there isn't, such action would be worth every dollar spent.

This situation cannot be allowed to continue, and present measures to curtail the infestation are obviously not adequate. I further suggest that if our Board of Health cannot handle the situation that the State Board of Health should be called in for assistance. I also further suggest that if Mr. Young feels inadequate in his job, he should resign.

## From The Editors Desk

By Pat Guevin



Last Sunday, my family and I were treated to a pleasant afternoon of dramatics presented by the Agawam Children's Theatre.

The students of this five month old endeavor, presented an afternoon of short skits and pantomime with the innocence and freshness that only children can achieve. It was a job well done and all involved should be applauded.

Agawam has long been remiss in not giving the arts the attention they deserve, and this project can be viewed as a giant step forward in the education of our youngsters. The opportunity presented to these children by Irene Scanlon and associates is exceptional, and I would hope that many more children in the community will become involved in this most worthwhile project.

Credit is hereby given to the youngsters who participated on Sunday afternoon: Michelle Willard, Wendy Shepard, Susan Brown, Kelly Sullivan, Kristin Votakis, Kim Spring, Michael Heroux, John Benjamin and Danny Dietschler. Also, Bill Braese, Kelley Dineen, David Hay, Brian Boulay, Samantha Woods, Erin Corley, Tim Corley, W.C. Conlin, Jackie Blakesley and Jennifer Heroux.

## Ruining A Man's Career Is Not A Thing To Be Proud Of

by Gail Loncto

This week, Town Manager Peter Caputo announced his decision to leave Agawam and accept a position in Nantucket, Massachusetts as a Chief of Police. Mr. Caputo's announcement was not entirely unexpected. For the last three months he has been "taken to task" by the town council, public officials, the news media and certain "concerned citizens" for discrepancies discovered in his resume. The exact same resume that was submitted to the Town of Agawam for their scrutiny almost two years ago. Even though the council voted to retain Peter Caputo as Agawam's town manager based on his year and a half record in the manager's position, certain "concerned citizens" and councilors continued to keep the resume issue alive for obvious petty, personal reasons.

Under the constant barrage of nit-picking and hostility, Caputo accepted the position in Nantucket. He then notified the Agawam town council of his decision and supposedly everyone was happy. The "concerned citizens" accomplished their obvious goal, the manager was leaving, and Caputo was probably relieved to be leaving Agawam and going to a hopefully "sane" community. Right? WRONG!!

These same "concerned citizens" took it upon themselves to make sure every possible piece of information, no matter how incidental or speculative was brought to the attention of Caputo's new employers and caused them to rescind their appointment of him.

Agawam's "concerned citizens" were not satisfied with just Caputo's resignation as Agawam's town manager, they then proceeded to make sure he is not employed elsewhere. He lost the Nantucket position, and it is almost certain the Council will vote on Monday night to accept his resignation as town manager.

These people are to be commended for a very thorough job of "character assassination" on a man whose record as Agawam's Town Manager does not merit such complete discredit.

Agawam, you've done it again. I'm not too proud to be a citizen of this town right now.





# Lice Problem Remains Critical At Clark

By Joanne Brown

The problem with communicable head lice infesting children in Agawam remains critical, especially at Clark Elementary School.

According to Clark Principal Tom O'Keefe, each morning a team of 7 or 8 nurses escorts directly from the bus to the school cafeteria those students who have been absent on the previous day and missed the daily head check. Each child is then inspected and, if judged okay, sent to a "clean room." One of these so-called clean rooms has been established for each grade level so that children who do not have the problem may be kept separate from those who are suspect.

According to O'Keefe, absenteeism is high due to students who actually have the lice as well as to those children being kept home by parents who want to keep them from becoming infested.

"Because of high absenteeism and the constant checking and rechecking being done on students by school nurses, the education process here has virtually stopped," stated O'Keefe. "Many parents have decided to keep their children home to prevent them from contracting the condition, and while I don't actually encourage such action, neither can I guarantee them that their children won't become infected if they attend school. This is a decision that each parent must make."

O'Keefe did state positively that no child would be penalized for staying home during this crisis. At the same time, though, he felt it was essential to keep the school open as this is the only way possible to keep track of new or repeat cases so these individuals could be isolated and the situation could be controlled and eventually eradicated.

"A general statement will have to be released, either by the Health Department or the School Department, letting parents know when the school is deemed clean once again," he said. "How this will actually be done is still being discussed."

## Extra Nurses Employed

According to Health Director Ron Young, two more registered nurses have been hired and two volunteer nurses have given some time to continue constant checking at Clark School.

Young explained, "We are concentrating on Clark for this week and also doing thorough checks on older brothers and sisters on the secondary level."

Young went on to state that he felt it was necessary to keep the schools open. "Once you close schools, you lose contact with who has the condition and who hasn't. We must check these children daily in order to control the spreading."

In response to questioning on the possibility of the building itself harboring lice, both Young and O'Keefe felt it not at all likely. O'Keefe explained that several exterminators had been consulted, and all seemed to feel it would be useless as, according to them, lice could not survive without a host to supply food. The cooler temperatures the school employs when class is not in session supposedly would decrease the likelihood of the lice surviving.

## Parents Question Sending Children To School

Several parents have begun to question the advisability of sending their children to school. One mother whose fourth grader was sent home for the third time expressed deep concern for his becoming reinfected.

"I followed every possible suggestion to eliminate whatever eggs might be left in my house, even going so far as to iron my son's mattress," she told the Advertiser/News. "I know he didn't contract the lice again from conditions at home. It's very discouraging when I did all I possibly could, and he picks them up again at school."

This particular mother along with many others has decided not only to keep this son out of school, but also her younger child who has not yet contracted the lice.

Even so, she felt it was not in the children's best interests to close the school and expressed much the same thinking as health and school officials.

"At least if the kids who have the problem can be found and sent home, we have a chance of stopping it from spreading," she explained.

## Discontinuation Of Extracurricular Activities

Health Director Young went so far as to say he feels organizations such as girl scouts, church schools, and so on should consider voluntarily discontinuing meeting temporarily.

Young stated, "This situation is not such that I can tell those groups what to do, but I do urge them to consider carefully temporarily calling off meetings until the problem is under control, especially in the Clark School area."

In a statement released to the Advertiser/News, Young asks for cooperation from all residents in the next phase of action which will involve making home visits to inspect premises and instruct parents on procedures for sanitizing their homes.

He asks that parents allow Health Department officials to enter their homes if called upon to do so. He did explain that each person has the right to refuse entry, but that in doing so, that individual would hinder the control of the problem.

If permission to enter a home was refused should conditions warrant it, the only recourse the Health Department has is to refuse to allow the students to return to school until such time as an inspection is made.

Young stressed the need to educate the public on the steps to be taken to control this problem and said some of this must be done on a one-to-one basis. He also emphasized the need for total cooperation from town residents if the epidemic is to be eradicated.

# Council Sets Primary Date

By Andrew Paleologopoulos

On Monday evening the Agawam Town Council ordered the Town Clerk to post notice that a special primary election will be held on January 22, 1980, to fill the position of Precinct 1 councilor. In the election held last month, there was a tie between incumbent councilor Frederick Nardi and challenger Joseph Rolland for the position.

The January 22nd vote will be open to any Precinct 1 resident who wishes to run. The polls are scheduled to be open at the Danahy School from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In other action, Councilor Elaine Bonavita's motion to refer the reopening of the Ottawa Street fire station to a council workshop was ruled out of order.

Former Town Attorney Jay Posnik had previously determined that Town Manager Caputo's decision to close the station is irreversible due to its purely administrative nature.

Mr. Caputo said the administration "stands firm" on this issue and that Ms. Bonavita is "beating a dead horse."

Questions concerning the efficiency of some boards and committees were raised by Councilors Bartnik and Bonavita. Bartnik asked Town Manager Caputo for a list of all openings on boards and committees at the last council meeting, but Mr. Caputo had not completed it due to the tornado situation.

Councilor Bonavita requested an investigation of the Industrial Development Commission, citing the fact that the commission has been unable to get a quorum. She said she had attended one of the meetings as council liaison, an appointment made by Caputo without the council's approval.

Councilor Bartnik suggested that the problem with ineffectiveness among the boards was "coming to a head." He asked for the minutes of all meetings along with attendance reports and agendas.

The meeting was held at the community room of the library which will be the council's permanent home.

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# SPORTS

The Agawam Little League held its awards banquet at the Italian Sporting Club on Sunday, December 2nd.

Among the guests at the head table were Junie Fontana from the Agawam Fire Department and Bill Sleich from the Polish American club, both representing sponsors of teams. Other sponsors for the year were Gove Realty, The Book Shelf, Buxton, Soda City, Suburban Realty, the VFW 1632, Sarat Ford, McDonalds, and Ryan Drug.

The coaches of the Senior Division Soda City Pirates, Erwin Goodwin, Pat Buoniconti, and George Groom, gave trophies to their team members. The team was made up of Joey Warren, Billy Champagne, Paul Tatros, Tony Buoniconti, George Groom, Frank Rocca, Billy Groom, John Alves, Mark Goodwin, Eugene McLean, Barry Wu, John Franco, and Paul Franco.

The Pirates represented a new name in the winning of the Senior Division, coming ahead of a team that had previously taken the division title for five consecutive years. Credit is given for a season of hard work by both coaches and team members of the Pirates.

Bob Desimone congratulated his Major Division Dodgers for a season well played. Even though the Dodgers took the title last year, he felt this was a more gratifying year as the team had to come from behind at the end of the season's first round. He attributed this to the coaching from Gary Desimone and the guidance of Al Bonavita during practice time.

The Dodgers were presented jackets by their coaches. They were Jeff Hill, Darren Hill, David Champagne, Tony Orfice, Denise Sleich, David Pemberton, Bobby Alves, Mike Stassen, Keith Jacobs, Jeff Davies, Pat Tangredi, Anthony Frogameni, Danny Bryden, and Peter Sibilia.

The night was not only one of joy and triumph, but one of nostalgia also. Jerry Sibilia, after two years as president of the Little League, stepped down from that position. He has worked many hours bringing this league to its present 270 member enrollment with children in four divisions. This has been a culmination of the efforts Jerry gave to this league, which was faltering when he took the presidency two years ago.

Jerry has not only been president in Little League, but has in the past been a coach when his older children were playing. He now has two younger children playing in two divisions.

In this age of ERA, let us not forget the woman behind the great man; that is, of course, Marie Sibilia. Mrs. Sibilia has been active in directing the concession stand and other fundraising activities during the past two seasons and has spent many hours away from her home.

One usually associates those involved with Little League as parents who have children on teams; however, it was noted that two gentlemen who have no children in the league have given many hours every day

## Little League Holds Awards Banquet




The V.F.W. Dodgers are pictured above. Front row, left to right: Kieth Jacobs, Pete Sibilia, Bobb Alves, Dan Bryden, Darrin Hill, and Dave Champagne. Second row, same order: Tony Orfice, Jeff Davies, Mike Stassen, Pat Tangredi, Jeff Hill, Dave Pemberton, Tony Fragimini, and Dennis Sleich. Third row: Coach Al Bonavita, Manager Bob DeSimone, and coach Gary DeSimone. photo by Jack Devine.



The Champion Little League Senior Division Pirates are pictured above. Front row, left to right: Barry Wu, Paul Franco, Tony Buoniconti, Bill Champagne, Bill Groom, Frank Rocca, and Eugene McClean. Second row, same order: Coach Pat Buoniconti, John Alves, Mark Goodwin, Joe Warren, John Franco, Paul Tatros, George Groom Jr., George Groom, Coach, and Coach Irv Goodwin. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine

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of the season. They were Mr. R. Cote, vice president, and Mr. W. Auger.

Mr. Sibilia was also aided during the year by Mrs. Joanne Sleich and Richard Hill.

Stepping into the position of president of the league is Nick Borello, who addressed the group at the banquet giving the history of the Agawam Little League first organized in town in 1955. He further stated that the activities done now would be the forerunner of those to be done in the future, perhaps even to benefit the children of those children now playing.

A reminder was given that an additional sign up will be held in February for anyone who has not had a chance to come to do so as yet. Anyone who wishes to manage or coach a team, especially in the minor or the instructional league will be welcomed.

It is also requested that if any player has a uniform in his or her possession to please return it to the coach as soon as possible.



## Gridiron Moms Host Awards Banquet

"We had our ups and downs this past season, but I would have to call the season a success," remarked Coach Jack Michalak at the Gridiron Moms annual awards banquet held last Friday. "The players on this team have a lot of character and they showed it during the season."

Athletic Director Cliff Kibbe echoed Michalak's words: "I've seen a lot of Agawam football teams in my years in the system, and this was by far the smallest team. But pound for pound, these kids were awfully great football players."

So it went. Words of praise and shiny hardware were heaped upon an Agawam squad that finalized their 1979 campaign at 6-4, disappointing, according to some, but no one who attended the banquet at the Junior High School cafeteria was in a mood to lament or play Monday morning quarterback.

The long fall schedule was over, and it was time to reflect and reward the players for services rendered.

"I look over these players, and I just don't see football players, but individuals who are serving the school and the entire community," said Principal Dave Theodorowicz, one of the invited guests of the Moms.

Twenty-one graduating seniors were honored with trophies by the Moms. Individual honors were also awarded Rick Leclerc, Bill Blackak, Mike Longhi, Abe Yacteen and Joe Pezzimenti.

Leclerc, the Brownies' ace signal-caller and a strong candidate for All Western Mass. recognition, received the team's Most Valuable Player trophy. Michalak called the likeable senior "the best player I have ever coached."

The Clem Hobbs Trophy, honoring the squad's outstanding senior back, was shared by Yacteen and Pezzimenti. Yacteen is considered the AA Conference's premier wide receiver, while Pezzimenti was Agawam's standout linebacker and the fellow who glued the defense.

The Roger Leclerc Trophy, named after the former Agawam High, Trinity College, and Chicago Bears stalwart, was awarded to lineman Mike Longhi for his fine play in the trenches.

Blackak took the Coaches Award, which is given annually to the senior who best exhibits qualities a coach seeks in an athlete.

Booster Club President Albert Bonavita presented junior running back David Stuart with a trophy in recognition of Stuart's remarkable 277 yard performance against Chicopee Comp on October 27.

Other underclassmen who were recognized for the performances were sophomore Paul Dezeille and Junior Jim Fleming. Dezeille received the Ricky Morin Trophy in honor of the former Brownie player who tragically died in an auto accident.

Stating that "he had improved 1000 percent," Michalak presented Fleming with the Richard Anderson Trophy. Fleming, a two-way starter this season, "didn't even play well on the JV's last year," the second-year coach said in praise of Fleming.

During a three minute speech, Michalak pointed to what he considered the positive aspects of Agawam's 5-4 season. He said he was proud that the Brownies had planked Chicopee for the second consecutive year (28-0) and that his charges had bumped off Milford (26-22) after bowing to the Eastern Mass. power for four consecutive years.

Michalak credited his coaching staff for a job well done. Brownie assistant coaches were Paul Bachini, Bob Bednarz, Joe Lavoie, Bill Sapelli, and scout Lou Conte.

Gridiron Moms officers include Noel Yacteen, president; Beverly Poggi, vice president; Diane Guthrie, recording secretary; Joy Smith, corresponding secretary, and Jeannine Beaudette, treasurer.



Todd Clark receives a senior award from assistant coaches Paul Bachini and Joe Lavoie, Friday. The Gridiron Moms handed out 21 trophies to graduating seniors at the annual Awards Banquet. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine



Agawam High assistant coach Joe Lavoie presents senior Brian Swelney with his senior award Friday at the Gridiron Moms Awards Banquet. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine

## AHS Hockey Team Prepares For Season

By Jim Jenks

The Agawam High School hockey team is in full preparation for the '79-'80 season. Under third-year coach Bill Sapelli, the Brownie pucksters should easily improve upon last year's 10-8 record.

Sapelli will rely on team captains Gary Melanson, Alan Hardina, and Jerry Sibilia to lead his team to the ice wars.

Putting the puck in the net should be no problem for Agawam, as Sapelli put it, "We have the forwards to score as one full line is returning from last year." Melanson, Hardina, and John Couture make up that tandem.

Looking at defense, the Brownies aren't quite as strong. "Our defense is inexperienced right down to the goaltender," Sapelli said.

In the net, Sam Deitelbaum will try to fill the space left by Kevin Murphy and Al Warren of last year's squad. At the blueline, Sibilia, John Colby and Steve Moreau will stop enemy forwards from scoring.

"I can't really say how well we're going to do; there are just too many ifs involved," Sapelli said. "We are going to be competitive and that's what matters."





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In order to vote for our "Outstanding Athletic" our readers should complete the ballot on this page. All citizens of Agawam are eligible to vote for the SENIOR athlete in the four categories: Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Field Hockey, and Girl's Swimming. (circle appropriate sport). Fill in the athlete's name, your name, address, and phone number, and mail to: The Agawam Advertiser/News, P.O. Box 233, Agawam, MA. 01001.

The purpose of the award is twofold: (1) to increase community interest in the high school athlete program and (2) to recognize the individual talents of our amateur athletes.

Tabulation of all ballots will be handled by the staff of the Advertiser/News. The deadline for the Fall Sports is December 15.

Eligible for the award are Agawam High School senior athletes (participating in sports in which the Agawam Athletic Association sponsor teams.

### YMCA To Demonstrate Downhill Ski Equipment

The Springfield YMCA is offering a free demonstration on downhill ski equipment and clothing on Wednesday, December 12, at 10:45 a.m.

Mark Larder of the Ski Haus in East Longmeadow will describe and show the latest trends in downhill ski equipment. The YMCA also has a ski conditioning program.

For more information, feel free to call Cyndy Duade at the Springfield YMCA, 275 Chestnut Street, at 739-6951, ext. 227.

Whether you are a courageous amateur or an advanced downhill racer, you, too, can look like a professional on the slopes. Come to this free talk on downhill ski trends and learn how it's done!

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### Y Offers Lifeguard Certification

The Metropolitan Springfield YMCA will be offering a Lifeguard Certification Institute on December 15 and 16. This two-day program is a step above a regular lifesaving certification, and emphasizes both preventive and first-aid skills for a potential pool guard.

"This certification is a definite edge for anyone seeking a lifeguard position," stated Jim Morrill, Aquatic Director. "It will insure the quality of the candidate applying, and give him useful knowledge in areas of pool maintenance, chemical analysis, and danger areas in a pool."

This is a national program of the YMCA, and highly recommended for anyone in aquatics. A current lifesaving certification in either Red Cross or YMCA Aquatics is a prerequisite for the course. The cost of this two-day institute will be \$22, and registration will be taken at the YMCA Physical Education Department, 275 Chestnut Street, Springfield. For further information, please call 739-6951.

### AHS Wrestlers Anticipate Season

By Jim Jenks

After a season last year of fourteen wins and one loss, the Agawam High School Brownie grapplers start this year's season without such performers as Gerry Mason, Gary Geiger, and Frank Bonavita.

Last year's squad did not have a losing weight class and surprised the other schools in the area by dominating those weight classes where they weren't as strong.

Coach Phil Tomkiel was looking forward to a large turnout this season to build upon last year's squad. But when opening day came around, only four new sophomores joined the team along with the returnees from last year.

"After such a great season last year when we beat the Western Mass. champs Tech, I expected to see a great turnout," Tomkiel said. "This turnout is very upsetting, and I don't understand it."

The squad this year is led by returning tri-captains Bob Schwein (114), Steve Fields (121), and Paul Zerbipolous (134).

Last year, Fields was Western Mass. champion in his respective weight class, while Schwein went the whole season with only one loss. Coach Tomkiel is looking to his lighter men to win key points this year, while his heavyweights are still fighting for weight positions.

"Our goal is to do as well as last year, and the other teams aren't looking for us again," Tomkiel said. "The potential is there, and I feel we will pull a few surprises."

### Welcome To My World

by Charles Duclos

#### Prediction Come True

About a month ago, I wrote an article whereby it was pointed out that Bill O'Brien, coach of the girls' 13-14 soccer team for the AAA, had to substitute for the high school coach Paul Blodgett. During his reign at the helm of the Brownies, Bill's "boys" held the opposition scoreless. After that stint, I wrote that someday we might even see Bill on TV's *Soccer Made In Germany*. Well, it finally happened...almost.

Bill is the league coordinator of game schedules for the Pioneer Valley Soccer League, along with his many other activities. Individuals from this organization were invited by TV station WGBY, Channel 57 to participate in a fund-raising endeavor this past weekend. League President John Costa, Bill, and a few others spent three hours last Saturday taking pledges over the telephone. They were there during *Sesame Street* and *Soccer Made In Germany*.

Bill indicated that the event was most successful financially for the station, as well as a new experience for himself.

#### Photographer Unrecognized

During our recent trip to Virginia for the East Coast Invitational Soccer Tournament, it should be noted that Henry Kozloski of Meadow Street spent a great deal of time taking pictures of the action as well as photos during our tour of Washington D.C. Some of these appeared in last week's *Advertiser/News*. Henry may only be an amateur photographer, but it doesn't show in his work which appears to be very professional. Nice job, Henry.

#### Uniforms Complimented

As a final note for the soccer trip, it should be pointed out that our girls were well coordinated in the fashion department. In addition to their uniforms, their shoe laces were orange as were the headbands. Brown hats with orange lettering of each girl's name were provided. This writer received a hat with PRESS on it, as did Henry Kozloski, whose hat bore the PHOTOGRAPHER inscription. Julie Miodowski's grandmother, Mrs. Edna Smith from West Springfield, knitted seventeen pairs of mittens for each of the players. No small task in itself.

### Postmaster Says 'Mail Early'

Agawam Postmaster Robert DeForge encourages shoppers to shop early and mail packages early during the holiday season.

"By shopping early and mailing early, the public can be better assured their cards and parcels will reach their destinations in plenty of time for Christmas," said DeForge.

"With the Christmas shopping season now officially open, we wish to further emphasize that many suggested overseas mailing dates have fallen through. The important thing to remember is to do your shopping early and mail your cards and parcels early.

In addition to planning early shopping, Postmaster DeForge suggested, "you should take the necessary time to properly prepare your cards and gifts for mailing. Use Zip Codes. Legibly write your own zip-coded address and the full zip-coded address of the recipient."

DeForge said, "the key to the successful mailing of cards and parcels is to allow adequate time. Shop early, allow enough time to properly prepare cards and parcels for mailing, and mail early. By cooperating with the Post Office in this matter, you will help us help you have a better Christmas."

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# Park & Recreation Winter Schedule

**NOTE:** Registrations are being accepted daily Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All fees are payable in advance. There will be no refunds of the registration fee unless the course is cancelled.

All programs are subject to change due to gymnasium availability and participation. All programs will be cancelled for any day that school is closed due to inclement weather. Notification will be placed on all local radio stations. If there is any doubt, please contact the Parks and Recreation office.

**FIGURE SKATING INSTRUCTION:** Professional instruction will be given by the Springfield Skating Club.  
Session: Jan. 12 to Feb. 9 (5 weeks)  
Time: Saturdays 4:30-5:20 p.m. and 5:30-6:20 p.m. (2 classes).  
Location: Springfield Olympia, West Springfield  
Fee: \$5.00 per person

**16-19 BASKETBALL LEAGUE:** Practice begins in the month of December and games begin in Jan. thru Mar.  
Session: November 28-Mar. 27  
Time: Wed. and Thurs 8-10 p.m. (unless school has a program).  
Location: Agawam High gym  
Fee: None - form your team and enter

**JR.-SR. HIGH OPEN SWIM & GYM:** Open to all Agawam residents of Junior and Senior High age; supervised recreation and swimming  
Session: Jan. 12-Mar. 29  
Time: Saturdays, 7-9 p.m.  
Location: Jr. High pool and gym  
Fee: None (athletic equipment not furnished)

**CIVIC ORGANIZATION GYM & SWIM:** Jr. High gym and pool available to civic groups and clubs of Agawam through reservations. Lifeguard provided.  
Session: Jan. thru Mar.  
Time: Fri., 7-8 p.m. - gym; 8-9 p.m. - pool  
Location: Jr. High pool and gym  
Reservations made at Parks and Rec office  
Fee: 50¢ per person (pay lifeguard at pool)

**YOUTH SWIM INSTRUCTION:** Co-sponsored By Agawam Athletic Association. Certified Red Cross instructors will conduct these classes.  
Session: 9-9:45, Beginners, Adv. Beginners, Intermed.  
Time: Saturdays, Jan. 12 to Mar. 29 (12 weeks)  
Session: 10-10:45, Beg., Adv. Beg., Intermediates  
Time: Saturdays, Jan. 12 to Mar. 29  
Session: 11-11:45, Adv. Beg., Intermed., Swimmers  
Time: Saturdays, Jan. 12 to Mar. 29  
Location: Jr. High pool  
Fee: None  
Directors: Tom Pirnie, assisted by Jeff Richardson and Linda Catchepaugh

**YOUTH GYMNASTICS INSTRUCTION:** Classes limited to 30 on a first come-first served basis. Release forms must be signed by a parent or guardian before the child may participate.  
Session: Jan. 12 to Mar. 29  
Time: Saturdays 9-9:45, beginners 4 & 5 years old  
9:45-10:30, beginners 6 years and up  
10:30-11:15, intermediates 6 years and up  
11:15-12, advanced 6 years and up

Location: Jr. High gym  
Fee: None  
Instructors: Paula Hadden, Lisa Hadden, Janet Murray, LeeAnn Mercadante

**OPEN GYM AT HIGH SCHOOL:**  
Session: Jan. 7th to Mar. 24  
Time: Mondays, 8-10 p.m.  
Location: Agawam High School  
Fee: None  
Subject to cancellation due to school program.  
**SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN REC. PROGRAM:**  
Run in connection with the children advocacy program.  
Session: Jan. 5 to May 31  
Time: Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Location: Valley Community Church, except for April 5th and May 3rd at the Jr. High from 12 to 3 p.m.  
Instructors: Rose Mary Polleta, Maria Gomez, Betty McLean

**WOMEN'S FITNESS-VOLLEYBALL-SWIM:** Offers exercise, volleyball, & swimming  
Session: Jan. 9th to Mar. 26th (no make up dates)  
Time: Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 exercise, volleyball  
8:00-9:30 pool-instruction or open swim  
Location: Jr. High pool and gym  
Fee: \$10 per person  
Instructors: Willie Fortini and Dee Berkey

**ADULT SELF DEFENSE:** Provides the necessary skills and knowledge to protect oneself in tight situations  
Session: Feb. 6th to Mar. 26 (8 weeks)  
Time: Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Location: Jr. High gym  
Fee: \$10 per person  
Instructor: David Skolnick

**MEN'S ADULT VOLLEYBALL:** Informal program of volleyball for men that provides light exercise and fun.  
Session: Jan. 8 to Mar. 25  
Time: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
Location: Robinson Park School gym  
Fee: \$12 per person or \$2 per session at site  
Supervisor: Peter Parrotta

**ADULT LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM:** For adults who would like to learn to swim for enjoyment and exercise.  
Session: Jan. 10 to Mar. 27  
Time: Thursdays, 6-7 p.m.  
Location: Jr. High pool  
Fee: \$12 per person  
Instructor: Tom Pirnie

**BELLY DANCE INSTRUCTION:** Offers physical exercise as well as instruction in the art of belly dancing.  
Session: Jan. 8 to Mar. 25  
Time: Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30, beginners class  
7:30-8:30, advanced beginners class  
Location: Middle School gym  
Fee: \$10 for 12 lessons (limit 30 to class)  
Instructor: Willie Fortini

**BALLROOM DANCING INSTRUCTION:** Includes all types of ballroom steps including the new forms of disco.  
Session: Jan. 7 to Mar. 24 (12 weeks)  
Time: Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
Location: Robinson Park School gym  
Registration: At the program  
Fee: \$2.00 per person per class  
Instructor: Elizabeth Meissner

**MEN'S BASKETBALL:** There will be two leagues, one of 19-30 years of age and another of 30 and over. The

over-30 league is organized for teams or individuals who would like to be assigned to a team. For information, contact the League Commissioner Jim Mahoney at 786-5036. Teams will practice each Sunday during December and the games will start in January.  
Session: Dec. 2 to Mar. 29  
Time: Sundays, 10-12 Over-30 league  
1-4 19-30 league  
Location: Agawam High gym  
Fees: Both leagues fees to be announced

**A.A.A. YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUES:**  
All league games begin on Saturday, January 5th through March 15th. Boys and girls instructional leagues - Saturdays 10 and 11 a.m. Ages 6 & 7 at the high school.  
Girls 8-10: Sat. at Jr. High  
Girls 11-14: Sat. at High School  
Boys 8-10: Sat. at Jr. High  
Boys 10-12: Sat. at High School  
Boys 13-15: Sun. at Jr. High

**AGAWAM HOCKEY ASSOCIATION:** Games are played week nights and weekends at the Springfield Olympia, Blunt Park, Forest Park Rink, Holyoke, and the Enfield, CT, Twin Rinks. All teams are members of the Greater Springfield Junior Hockey League.

## Stafford Speedway To Honor Champions

Ron Bouchard will be one of the honored guests on Saturday night, January 5th, at the Sheraton Sturbridge Inn in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, as the Stafford Motor Speedway presents the 10th Annual Awards Banquet to pay tribute to the 1979 Winston Racing Series Champions.

1979 was a year of ups and downs for the M & H Tire Race team as Bouchard was touted to be the man to beat at Stafford after chasing Geoff Bodine in 1978. But the season started slowly for the 1973 Stafford champion. With the exception of a runner-up finish to Maynard Troyer in the Spring Sizzler, the best the Bob Judkins-prepared Pinto could muster was a third place finish in the first month.

The slide continued in June as Bouchard lost an engine in an afternoon practice session, but drove Don Flynn's Troyer-built Pinto to a second place finish to stay in the thick of the point battle.

It seemed that Lady Luck turned on the M & H team as the car was severely bent two weeks in a row in early race accidents.

"You Can't Keep a Good Man Down" would be a good title to the Bob Judkins/Ron Bouchard title march. On June 29, a new Troyer-built Pinto was debuted, and Ron found himself battling his 1978 nemesis, Bodine, in the Lee Allard Pinto. After a thrilling lead-swapping fight, Bouchard settled for the bridesmaid spot again.

On the final Friday night, all eyes were on the two cars. Both of the contenders romped to easy qualifying heat wins, and due to the money won handicap system, Bouchard would start 19th, one spot behind Evans.

Evans led the charge to the front in the feature as he put the DeWitt Pinto on top in the seventh lap. Bouchard, who followed Evans' every move, only needed to finish behind the Rome, NYer, to secure the title. But Bouchard wanted to be a champion's champion. He went after Evans, passing him at the halfway mark in his old familiar style.

"Richie had the whole inside, so I had to go outside. I had plenty of power," said Bouchard. "Evans didn't give up; he never does. He remained glued to the rear bumper until the checkered flag."

In Victory Lane, Bouchard told the crowd he wasn't thinking about the points; he wanted to win.

Roger Bear, team manager for Winston, will be on hand to present Ron Bouchard with a bell helmet and a check for \$1,000.

Although Evans is the runner-up, his car owner Gene DeWitt will receive the biggest share of the Stafford Motor Speedway point fund for winning the owner championship.

Tickets for the banquet are on sale now, priced at \$15 per person. They may be ordered by mail at P.O. Box 105, Stafford Springs, CT 06076. For more information, call (203) 684-2783.

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# Sportsman Corner

by Bill Chiba



The annual Mawaga Sportsmen Club, Inc. Christmas Party will be held December 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the clubhouse off Adams Street. Bill Haver is looking for donations of prizes for the raffle to help defray the expenses. Reservations are needed for the affair. Call Bill Ekstedt, 786-2525, or Jim Brusig, 786-7465.

The officers for 1980 were elected at a recent meeting. President, Bill Ekstedt; vice president, Jim Brusig; treasurer, Bruno Maule; financial sec., Bernard Paine; and recording sec., Frank Freedman.

Vermont's fisher and bobcat trapping seasons start December 15th and continue through December 31. Both seasons are open statewide, but only residents may take fisher.

Fisher skins and carcasses must be taken to a Vermont warden not later than 10 days after the closing of the season. The skins will be tagged and the carcasses used for research purposes.

Bobcat skins and carcasses must be taken to a Vermont warden within 48 hours of when they are taken. Tagging and carcass procedures are similar to those for fisher.

A separate bobcat season starts January 26 and goes through February 10, 1980.

## RIFLED SLUGS DISTANCES

A 12 gauge rifle slug will carry farther and kill at a greater distance than most hunters realize. The maximum distance a 12 gauge, 1 ounce rifled slug will travel is about one-fifth of a maximum distance of a popular deer caliber such as a 30-30. A lead of 12 gauge 00 buckshot has an approximate maximum distance about 200 yards less than the rifled slug.

A 12 gauge-00 Buck will travel a distance in feet of 1830; 12 gauge-0 Buck, 1770 feet; 12 gauge-1 ounce slug, 2,450 feet; and a 20 gauge-7/8 ounce slug, 2,450 feet.

Imagine that you've picked out a good stand near a deer trail and you are using a 12 gauge loaded with rifled slugs. You figure that your maximum effective range is 100 yards. However, you must keep in mind that your slug can travel over 800 yards. If you get a shot at the buck, be absolutely sure you know what lies beyond your target.



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

<b>December 11th</b> Rosary Alter Society Sacred Heart Church Parish Center 7:30 p.m.	<b>December 15th</b> Cub Scout Pack 78 Paper Drive Polish American Club 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 786-7747 for paper pick-up
<b>December 8 &amp; 9</b> Cub Scout Pack 75 Paper Drive Sacred Heart Church 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<b>December 17th</b> Catholic Women's St. John's Parish Center 8 p.m.
<b>December 8th</b> Westfield High School Craft Show South Middle School West Silver Street 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	<b>December 13th</b> Youth Center Potluck Agawam Congregational Church 6-8:30 p.m.

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## 5th Reunion Enjoyed By All



Attending the Agawam Class of '75's 5th reunion were reunion committee members (left to right): Mike Bodurtha, Donna Bodurtha, Lisa Tremboli-Touchette, Hal Stuart, class president, John Bonavita, and Michael Walsh. The event was held at the Springfield Marriott Hotel. Advertiser/News photo by Jack Devine

continued from page 1

Commented an angered Connelly on the LPVRPC's recent intent, "If that planning commission joins the neighborhood suit, it will be establishing a precedent in that they have put their so-called weight behind a neighborhood group against a member of the planning commission."

"If they do establish this precedent, in my estimation, it will be one of the most flagrant displays of bureaucratic arrogance I have ever come across."

Caputo maintains that Town Hall's position on the road's construction remains adamant. He said the council would support legal action against the LPVRPC.

Last summer, the community's anxiety against the LPVRPC reached the boiling point when it was suggested by Harold Ellis, the town's voting member on the commission, that Agawam leave LPVRPC in protest. State law, however, would not allow such action.

Ellis again voiced harsh words against the upcoming December 10th vote of LPVRPC. "Like before, it will be a whitewash and a sham," he declared in reference to past votes of the commission against the 57 extension. "It's hard to believe that such a body would put their own selfish motives before the safety of Agawam residents. I find that appalling."

Connelly stated that all requirements from both the state and federal standpoints have been met during eight years of preliminary planning for the highway's extension.

He said any action taken by LPVRPC would be a flagrant misuse of power.

Members of the LPVRPC support expanding the highway along Mill Street and also favor redesigning key intersections from the Agawam High School to the Southwick line. Connelly said that all studies indicate

that such an undertaking would not solve the current safety dilemma for town residents.

Residents have repeatedly complained of traffic jams in Feeding Hills Center and of hazardous conditions for homeowners attempting to leave their driveways along both Mill and Springfield Streets for several years.

Recently, a rash of fatal accidents occurred along the portion of 57 that expands into a divided highway. The accidents again brought the town's desire for the extension to the forefront. RS

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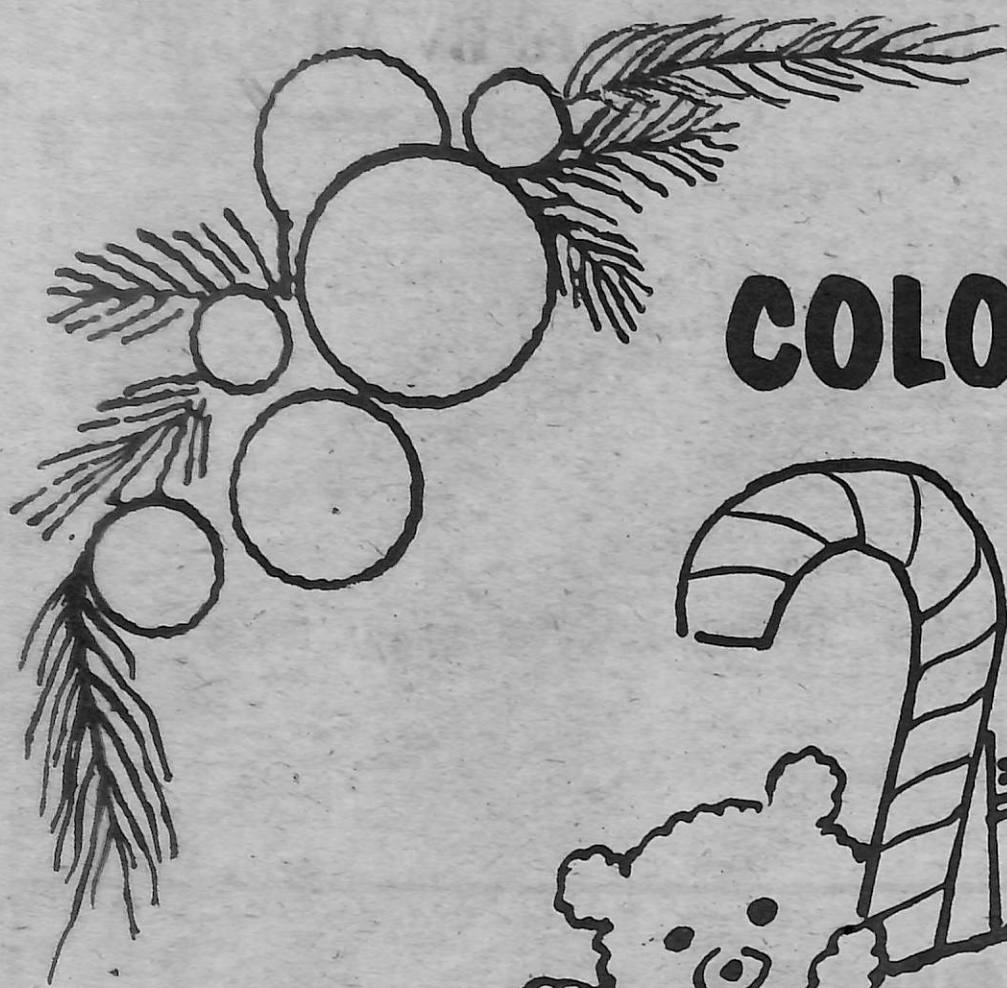
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2. A WATCH will be awarded to winners in each category: 7 years and under and 8-10 years.
3. Entries must be done in crayon, colored pencil, or magic marker....Entries will be judged on neatness and originality. Decisions of the judges will be final.
4. All entries **MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE AGAWAM/ADVERTISER NEWS OFFICE BY 12 NOON ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 14, 1979.** Entries may be dropped off at 26 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, or mailed to P.O. Box 233, Agawam, MA. 01001.
5. Children of employees of the Agawam Advertiser/News are not eligible to enter.

OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK  
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# Arbitrators Rule "Unfair Hiring"

By Joanne Brown

The American Arbitrators Association has handed down a decision that last summer's hiring of Deborah Barnes for the position of secretary in the town's Parks and Recreation office was unfair. Miss Barnes is the daughter of Town Councilor Kenneth Barnes of Precinct 3.

The arbitrator has also ordered that Miss Barnes be replaced with Mrs. Jeanette Lagoditz, who was refused the job last June, and that Mrs. Lagoditz be awarded over \$4,000 in back pay and benefits.

The order states that the town violated the collective bargaining agreement inasmuch as Mrs. Lagoditz had more experience and was working for the town in a CETA position at the time. According to contract, the town must hire an applicant who is working for the town before someone who is not.

Town Manager Peter Caputo said the arbitrator's decision will most likely result in legal action as he does not see how he can legally follow the order.

"It is not up to the arbitrator or to the union to tell us who to hire," he stated.

Mrs. Kay Muzzy, president of Agawam's chapter of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees union (AFSME), stated that the union's position is firm in regards to Mrs. Lagoditz' right to the job.

"Mrs. Lagoditz had the highest seniority of all the applicants as a senior clerk, and that is why the arbitrators name her specifically to get the job," explained Mrs. Muzzy.

She also stated that the union is prepared to go to court over this issue should it be necessary as Caputo has indicated.

She expressed concern for Miss Barnes losing the job, but stated, "We have to go by union rules and our contract in this case, not by personalities."

Mrs. Muzzy explained that the union views Mrs. Lagoditz as a member as she had been working as a senior clerk at the time. According to her, administration does not view her as a member as she had not paid dues.

However, according to Mrs. Muzzy, Miss Barnes did not join the union until after she was appointed to the Parks and Rec job.

Mrs. Muzzy said, "There is some question now that the decision from arbitration has said she was unfairly hired as to whether she is, in fact, a member of the union or not."

The decision to hire Miss Barnes was sharply criticized last summer when several town residents and councilors charged Caputo with nepotism and unfair hiring practices in employing the daughter of Councilor Barnes.

## Christmas Seal Agency Now Offers Christmas Cards

the colorful Christmas seals that decorate the envelopes of holiday cards and packages to help fight lung diseases have been an American tradition for 75 years.

This year, in addition to offering greeting cards featuring special designs, the Western Massachusetts Lung Association has reproduced the Massachusetts design into an attractive Christmas card package.

The designer of the 1979 Massachusetts seal is Monica Plummer, a 10-year-old student from Springfield, whose drawing is reproduced in color. The message on the card reads *A Holiday Wish - that all children will someday realize their dream in keeping with the International Year of the Child.*

All greeting cards are marked with the double-barred cross, the symbol of the Lung Association, and a message that this greeting helps support the health programs of the Western Mass. Lung Association. A color brochure illustrating the cards is available upon request from the Lung Association office at 393 Maple Street, Springfield.

Mario Sakellis, Development Director, said, "The major support for Lung Association activities comes from the annual Christmas seal campaign. Additional funds derived from the sale of Christmas cards, as well as from memorials, bequests, special events, and special gifts are equally important in helping to maintain the needed services and to provide additional vital activities."

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**FOR SALE:** 1955 Lincoln 4-door sedan; 30,000 miles. No rust, needs motor. Make offer. Call 786-4289 Ace Auto Body.

**FOR SALE:** Princess dishwasher, attaches to faucet of sink, \$20.00. Also, Bake & Roast/Broil & Toast oven, \$10.00. Call after 4 p.m. 786-1205.

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**FOR SALE:** Hodako 100, dirt bike; runs well, needs little work. \$200 or best offer. Call 789-0053 in Agawam.

**FOR SALE:** Four H78-14 conventional tires; Two J78-14 studded snows. Call 786-4954.

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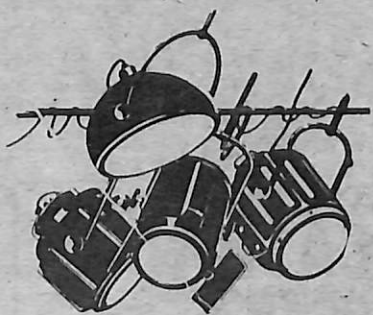
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## Spotlight on Business



Pictured above are Roy Scott, president of Community Savings Bank, with Amy Lango of Agawam, a secretary with the bank who was honored recently for her 25 years of service.

### Community Savings Recognizes Employees

Community Savings Bank held its annual Employee Recognition Banquet recently at the Longmeadow Country Club. Twenty employees, celebrating anniversaries of 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 years with the bank, were treated to dinner and dancing.

Ms. Amy Lango of Agawam and Mr. Richard Pisano were the guests of honor, having served the bank for 25 and 20 years respectively.

Roy Scott, president of Community Savings Bank, presided over the festivities, presenting a certificate to each guest of honor recognizing their years of dedicated service. Each employee also received a photo of the presentation and a double frame in which to display the certificate and the photo. As a bonus, each employee honored is entitled to extra vacation days depending on their length of service.

The Employee Recognition Banquet is an annual affair in which bank employees are honored for their years of dedicated service. Community Savings Bank is happy to honor these people who help make their business a success.



**AMERICAN  
LUNG  
ASSOCIATION**  
75th Anniversary  
The "Christmas Seal" People

Space contributed by the publisher as a public service.

## Danielle's

*A Fine Italian-French Restaurant...*

Already proven as a fine Italian-French restaurant, Danielle's now introduces lunch "Buffet Style" starting with a salad bar and homemade soup of the day, fresh Italian bread and on to the main entrees both hot and cold.

Included as entrees are such items as homemade lasagna, chicken and barbeque sauce, stuffed peppers, pork cutlets, and so on so that every time you join them for lunch, different items will greet you.

Also, customers should feel free to join them for a cocktail in the Chapter Eleven lounge with happy hour through December from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For your evening pleasure, enjoy fine dining in a most elegant atmosphere serving only the finest Italian and French cuisine. Dinner is served from 5 to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday with live dancing music Friday and Saturday evenings.

Join the staff at Danielle's and let the chef, Rita Mancini, prepare a unique and memorable feast. Danielle's is located between Agawam and West Springfield on the Agawam side of the Strathmore Bridge in what was formerly Tinti's at 22 King Street.

Danielle's hosts, Chet and Barbie Bushey, wish you all a happy holiday season.

### Library To Begin Saturday Film Program

Starting in December, there will be a one hour, Saturday morning children's film program at the Agawam Public Library at 10:00 a.m. The program is open to all Agawam elementary school children. No pre-registration is necessary.

**December 8th:** *The Gallant Little Tailor, Geyser Melodies, Grizzly Bear, Legend of Johnny Appleseed*

**December 15th:** *Winter of the Witch, In the Park, The Orphan Lions, Madeline's Rescue*

**December 22:** *Peewee's Lanola, Lentil, Fine Feathers, Little Mariner*

**December 29th:** A SPECIAL SHOWING OF WALT DISNEY'S *Freaky Friday*, starring Jody Foster.

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